

# Great Plains Interagency Dispatch Center 2015 Annual Report



*In memory of  
Dave Ruhl,  
our fallen brother*

*May 9, 1977 - July 31, 2015*

💜 **We Will Never Forget** 💜

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## GREAT PLAINS INTERAGENCY DISPATCH CENTER 2015 YEAR END REPORT

With El Nino being so fickle, weather in early 2015 was extremely difficult to predict. When El Nino did finally arrive in February, it was weak, but forecasters still predicted above-average temperatures with below average precipitation for spring in the Northern Plains. This held true as the western side of the zone began picking up sizeable wildland fires as early as February 6<sup>th</sup> with the Aero Road at 16.2 acres and Brannen Hill at 390 acres on February 7<sup>th</sup>. This warm dry weather also opened windows for some prescribed and pile burning allowing for the treatment of several thousand acres. As we rolled into March and April, activity picked up with the North Pole and Turkey Ridge fires in the southern hills and the Tower and Big Lake fires on the Standing Rock Reservation. Additional fire activity in Harding County, the Sheep Draw and Moonshine fires were supported by South Dakota State, BLM and Great Plains. May 9<sup>th</sup> brought the Mother's Day snow storm breaking total snowfall records across South Dakota and western Nebraska. These storms evolved into a bi-weekly events with large hail, damaging winds and flooding well into July. The hail (snow) storm on July 27<sup>th</sup>, buried Custer, SD in hail which had to be plowed like snow due to the depth. Record rain fall and wind speeds of 72mph were also recorded in and around Rapid City. These storms and their frequencies kept most of the Great Plains zone out of fire danger for the season, with a few exceptions for some of our BIA Agencies.

On March 11<sup>th</sup> we lost a friend, co-worker and all around great person. William "Bill" Kohlbrand, your smile and good humor is deeply missed. Rest in peace our friend.

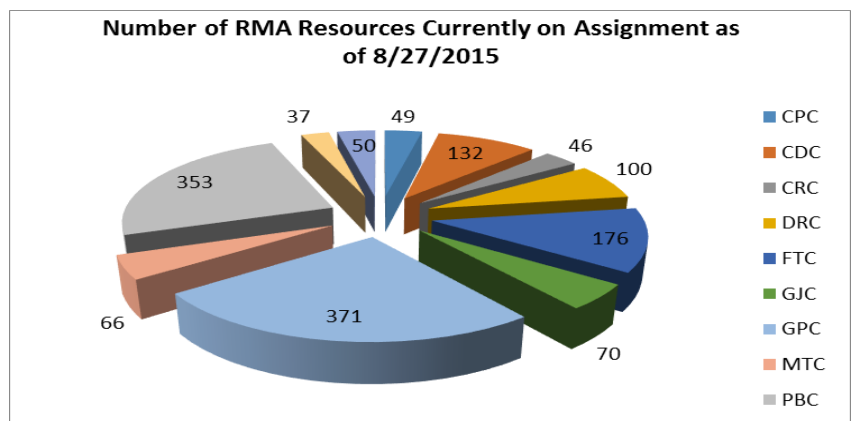
Mid - June, we were informed the Rainbow Family of Living Light had selected the Black Hills National Forest for their 2015 gathering. This gathering although meant to be a peaceful interaction of participants across the country, can attract up to 20,000, some of which are not always peaceful. There was concern for the safety of the public and employees who may be working in and around the area of the proposed gathering. For their protection and to assist the local law enforcement agencies, a National Forest Service LE&I team was deployed, with ICP set up in Hill City, SD. The influx of participants began early in July, with the main event planned for July 4<sup>th</sup>. This year's gathering was small compared to most, with approximately 2000 members in attendance. This made it much easier for the cleanup crew left behind to return the site to its natural landscape.

July 31<sup>st</sup>, was a very sad day on the Black Hills National Forest, the Great Plains zone and the firefighting community in general. It was that morning we were informed our friend and co-worker had died in the line of duty on the Frog fire on the Modoc National Forest. Dave and his family will forever be in our hearts.

With the 75<sup>th</sup> Sturgis Rally occurring in 2015, much planning went into being prepared for scenarios such as mass casualties, widespread illnesses, wildfires, etc. and what additional medical, law enforcement and firefighters would be needed in the event the scenarios came to fruition. It was impressive to witness the cooperation and partnerships developed in the process of ensuring the region was prepared to safely host what was thought to be over one million visitors. As it turned out, estimated attendance for the 75<sup>th</sup> Rally was only 739,000, however this was still the largest attendance in recorded in history.

August and September, Great Plains dispatch and the zone was very active in supporting the northwest, Montana, Idaho and California. Resources committed for the Rocky Mountain area on August 27<sup>th</sup> paint the picture of the dedication and commitment this zone provides to the rest of the country.

Thanks to everyone for their support and extra efforts in statusing resources available for out of zone assignments! AND thanks to those who stay behind to hold down the fort, taking care of business at home.

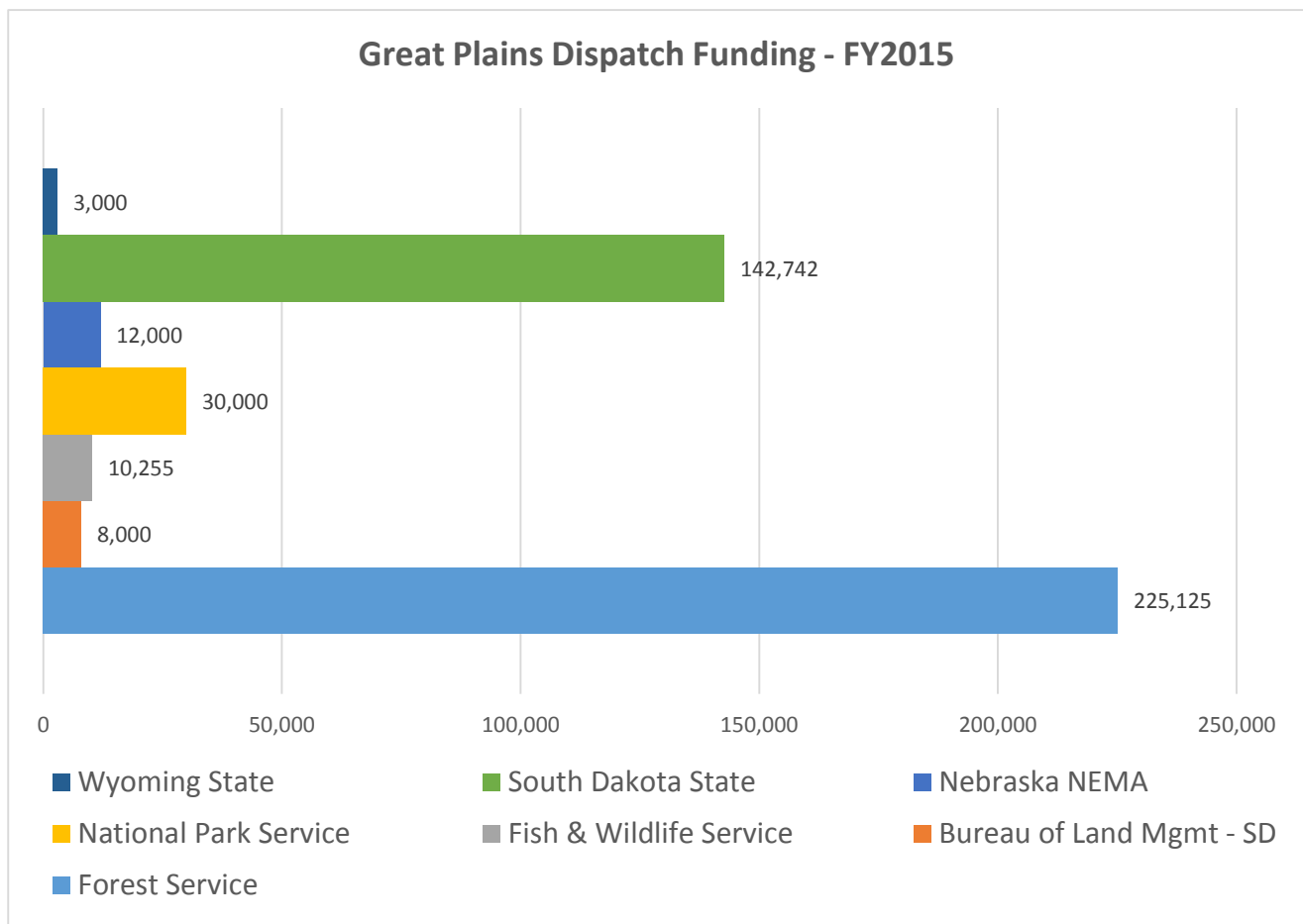


# Great Plains Interagency Dispatch Center 2015 Cost Share

## Great Plains Dispatch Funding - FY15

Funding Source	Funding
Forest Service	225,125
Bureau of Land Management - SD	8,000
Fish & Wildlife Service	10,255
National Park Service	30,000
Nebraska NEMA	12,000
South Dakota State	142,742
Wyoming State	3,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>431,122</b>

## Great Plains Dispatch Funding - FY2015



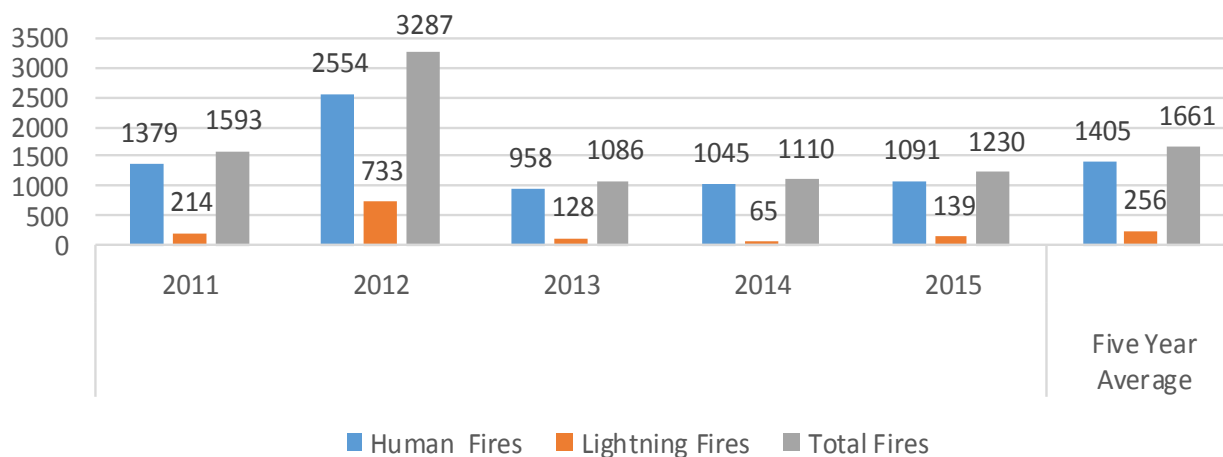
# FIRES AND ACRES BY CAUSE PER AGENCY AS REPORTED TO GREAT PLAINS FOR THE REGIONAL AND NATIONAL SITUATION REPORTS

UNIT	AGENCY/STATE	HUMAN		LIGHTNING		TOTAL		PRESCRIBED FIRE	
		FIRES	ACRES	FIRES	ACRES	FIRES	ACRES	FIRES	ACRES
SD-SDS	SD-SDS	537	41,944	62	835	<b>599</b>	<b>42779</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>565</b>
SD-TNC	SD-PCI	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
SD-BKF	SD-BKF	22	68	17	26	<b>39</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>14,791</b>
NE-NBF	NE-NBF	5	33	4	29	<b>9</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1010</b>
NE-NBRI	NE-NBRI	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
NE-NES	NE-NES	4	2338	0	0	<b>4</b>	<b>2338</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
WY-WYS	WY-WYS	1	0	2	1	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
WY-CTY	WY-CRX	14	590	24	67	<b>38</b>	<b>657</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
WY-CTY	WY-WEX	2	1	1	0	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
SD-BLM	SD-SDD	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	372
WY-BLM	WY-NCD	0	0	1	5	1	5	0	0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>372</b>
NE-MWP	NE-AFP	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	19
NE-MWP	NE-HOP	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	27
NE-MWP	SD-BDP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NE-MWP	WY-DTP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NE-MWP	SD-JCP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NE-MWP	SD-MRP	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
NE-MWP	SD-WCP	1	5420	0	0	1	5420	1	1000
NE-MWP	NE-SBP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NE-MWP	SD-MOP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5420</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5420</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1048</b>
SD-GPA	SD-CCA	40	362	1	0	41	362	0	0
SD-GPA	ND-SRA	144	7357	5	10	149	7367	5	143
SD-GPA	SD-LBA	17	406	2	4	19	410	10	98
SD-GPA	SD-SIA	3	5	0	0	3	5	0	0
SD-GPA	SD-RBA	21	2718	1	1745	22	4463	0	0
SD-GPA	SD-CRA	90	1189	9	48	99	1237	9	370
SD-GPA	SD-PRA	146	1270	9	27	155	1297	2	217
SD-GPA	SD-FSA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SD-GPA	SD-YAA	6	104	0	0	6	104	0	0
SD-GPA	NE-WIA	36	2441	0	0	36	2441	8	1807
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>15,852</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1834</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>17,686</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>2635</b>
UNIT	AGENCY/STATE	HUMAN		LIGHTNING		TOTAL		PRESCRIBED FIRE	

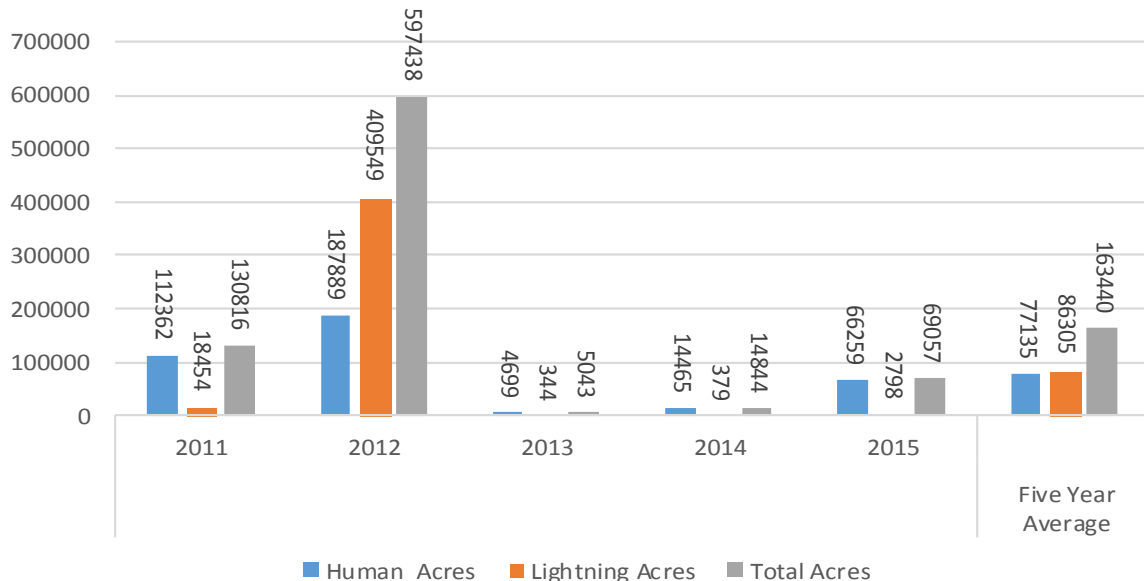


		FIRES	ACRES	FIRES	ACRES	FIRES	ACRES	FIRES	ACRES
CO-R6R	SD-SLR	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	815
CO-R6R	SD-HUR	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	448
CO-R6R	SD-LAR	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	160
CO-R6R	SD-LCR	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	2679
CO-R6R	SD-WAR	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
CO-R6R	SD-MDR	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	120
CO-R6R	SD-KMR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CO-R6R	NE-CLR	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	590
CO-R6R	NE-FNR	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	692
CO-R6R	NE-NPR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CO-R6R	NE-RBR	1	12	0	0	1	12	13	2567
CO-R6R	NE-VAR	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2377
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>10,448</b>
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>1091</b>	<b>66,259</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>2798</b>	<b>1230</b>	<b>69057</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>30,869</b>

### GPC ZONE FIVE YEAR AVERAGE - FIRES



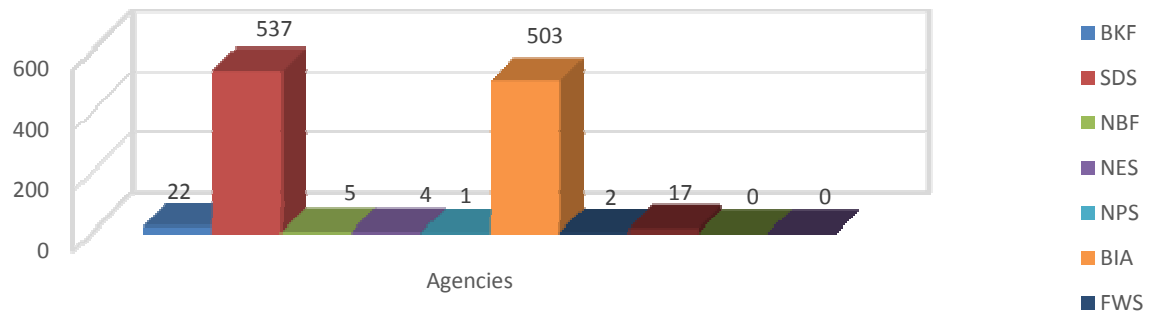
### GPC ZONE FIRE YEAR AVERAGE - ACRES



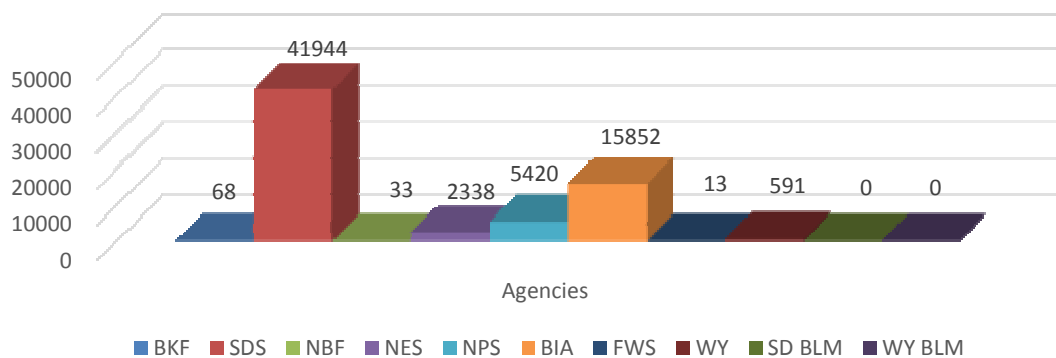
**2015**  
**FIRES AND ACRES WITHIN THE GREAT PLAINS ZONE**

AGENCY	HUMAN		LIGHTNING		TOTAL	
	FIRES	ACRES	FIRES	ACRES	FIRES	ACRES
SDS	537	41,944	62	835	599	42,779
BKF	22	68	17	26	39	94
NBF	5	33	4	29	9	62
NES	4	2338	0	0	4	2338
NPS	1	5420	0	0	1	5420
BIA	503	15,852	27	1834	530	17,686
FWS	2	13	1	1	3	14
SD BLM	0	0	0	0	0	0
WY BLM	0	0	1	5	1	5
WYS & Counties	17	591	27	68	44	659
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,091</b>	<b>66,259</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>2798</b>	<b>1,230</b>	<b>69,057</b>
False Alarms					81	
<b>TOTAL INCIDENTS</b>					<b>1311</b>	

**Human Caused Fires - Per Agency**

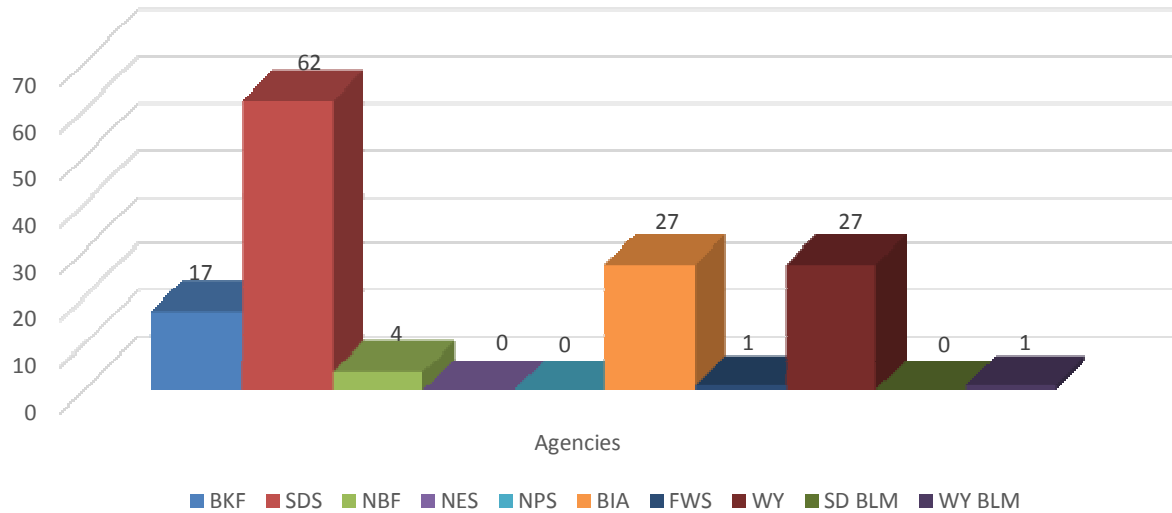


**Human Cause Acres - Per Agency**

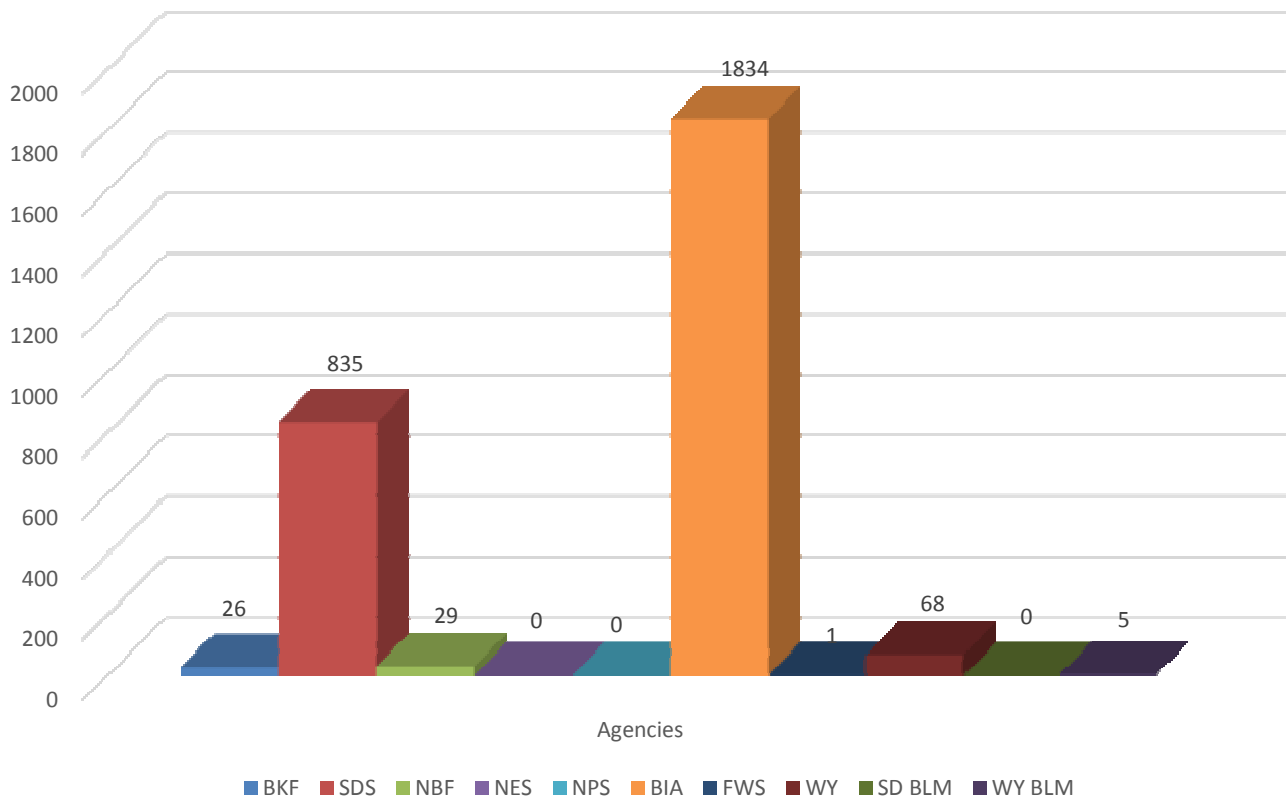


# 2015 FIRES AND ACRES WITHIN THE GREAT PLAINS ZONE

## Lightning Caused Fires - Per Agency



## Lightning Caused Acres - Per Agency



# 2015 LARGE FIRE ACTIVITY

DATE	NAME	AGENCY	ACRES	TYPE	INVOLVEMENT
02/05	Brannen Hill	WY-CRX	390	4	ICS 209'S
03/02	Trailer	NE-NES	400	4	Supported
03/12	Tower	ND-SRA	712	3	Supported
03/28	Fort	SD-RBA	1745	3	ICS 209's
03/30	Big Lake	ND-SRA	1700	3	Supported
04/01	Hwy 212	SD-SDS	5100	5	ICS 209'S
04/02	Ashes	SD-RBA	871	3	ICS 209'S
04/11	Hecla	SD-SDS	1600	3	ICS 209'S
04/13	Cold Brook	SD-WCP	5420	2/3	Supported
04/14	Big Game	SD-LBA	395	4	ICS 209'S
04/16	Denke	SD-SDS	700	4	Supported
08/04	Red Coat	SD-CRA	361	4	ICS 209'S
08/15	Lone Tree	NE-NES	1788	4	Supported
10/11	Zippo	ND-SRA	1500	3	ICS 209's
10/11	Cannon Ball	ND-SRA	5000	3	Supported
10/11	Sunflower Field CA	SD-SDS	460	4	ICS 209'S
10/12	Oak Creek	ND-SRA	1000	3	ICS 209'S
10/15	Rough	SD-PRA	304	4	ICS 209'S

## 2015 ROCKY BASIN TYPE- I IMT

INCIDENT NAME	LOCATION	AGENCY(S)	DURATION	IC
Soda	Idaho	ID-BLM	08/12-08/19	Pechota
Okanogan Complex	Washington State	WA-NES	08/20-09/01	Pechota
Rough	California	CA-SNF	09/02-09/15	Pechota

## 2015 RED TEAM ASSIGNMENTS

INCIDENT NAME	LOCATION	AGENCY(S)	DURATION	IC
Goat Rock Complex	Montana	MT-KNF	08/21-09/09	Russell

## 2015 BLACK TEAM ASSIGNMENTS

INCIDENT NAME	LOCATION	AGENCY(S)	DURATION	IC
Cold Brook	South Dakota	SD-WCP	04/14-04/15	Greer
Baker	Alaska	AK-BLM	07/07-07/22	Greer
Eagle	Oregon	OR-WWF	08/14-09/02	Greer
Crooked Creek	Montana	MT-KNF	09/29-10/03	Greer

## 2015 BLUE TEAM ASSIGNMENTS

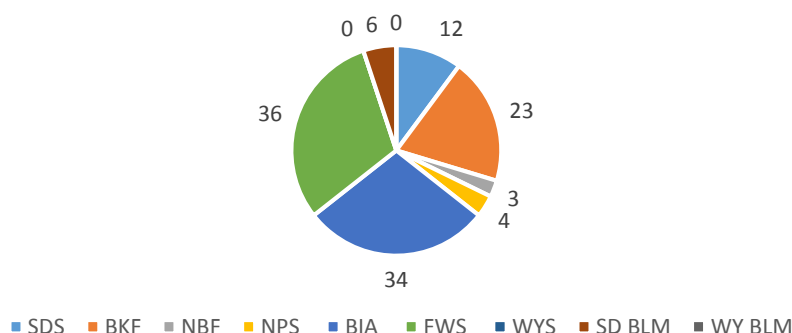
INCIDENT NAME	LOCATION	AGENCY(S)	DURATION	IC
Carpenter Road	Washington State	WA-BIA	08/15-09/04	Esperance



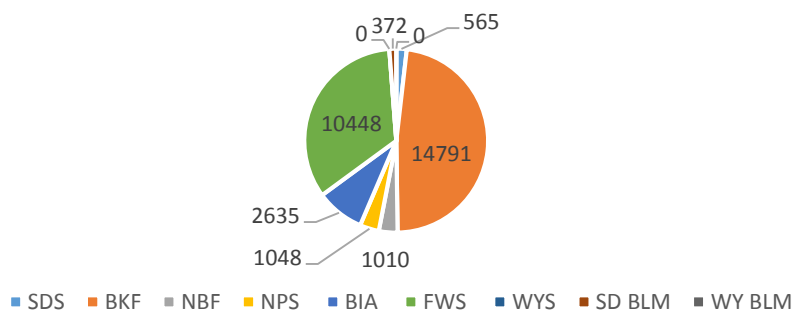
## 2015 PRESCRIBED/PILE BURNING ACTIVITY

Agency	Number of Fires	Acres
SDS	12	565
BKF	23	14,791
NBF	3	1,010
NPS	4	1,048
BIA	34	2,635
FWS	36	10,448
SD BLM	6	372
WY BLM	0	0
WYS	0	0
Total	118	30,869

### 2015 Prescribed and Pile Burning Incidents



### 2015 Prescribed and Pile Burning Acres



### 2015 Bureau of Land Management Information

As part of the annual operating plan between South Dakota Bureau of Land Management (SD-SDD) and the State of South Dakota Division of Wildland Fire (SD-SDS), all fire suppression activities are the responsibility of SD-SDS, therefore suppression information and numbers are lumped into the SD-SDS statistics. However, prescribed fire is not part of the agreement; therefore information given to Great Plains Dispatch for RX within the zone is posted on the GPC Situation Report.

# 2015 Great Plains Air Operations

## Rapid City Air Tanker Base (KRAP ATB)

On April 13<sup>th</sup>, the Rapid City ATB was stood up for three on-call contracted SEAT's (AT-802's) in response to the Cold Brook Incident. The SEAT's dropped a total of 3,000 gallons of water and were released on April 15<sup>th</sup>. The base retardant contract was activated for 3 days but no retardant was used.

The regular full service contract was in place June 1<sup>st</sup> through September, there was no other activity at the Rapid City Air Tanker Base.

## Interagency Helicopter Program H-7TA

Helicopter N357TA flew the 90 day mandatory availability period

Number of IA fires:	24
Number of IA fires supported with bucket:	11
Percent of IA fires supported with bucket:	46%
Number of Extended Attack fires:	3
Number of days on Extended Attack fires:	315
Gallons of water delivered:	17176
Total Flight time	126.9
Number of passengers carried:	231
Internal cargo weight carried:	9750
External cargo weight carried:	5810

## National Type I Exclusive Use Contract H-N161KA

The 2015 Exclusive Use Type 1 contract mandatory availability period (MAP) ran 90 days with a four day extension. Great Plains sent relieve managers as needed but Grady Wilson was once again the primary manager. The helicopter began its contract on June 1<sup>st</sup> in Idaho, where it spent most of the season, however it did make it to OR, WA, MT and WY.

Total wildland Fire Flight hours	= 264.6
Number of initial attacks	= 17
Total gallons of water dropped	= 1112013
Total pounds external cargo	= 7700

## South Dakota State Air Attack

South Dakota 03SD, Air attack flew on two in state incidents, however only one was within the Great Plains zone. Late June 03SD was mobilized to southern Colorado, where it stayed primarily on Rocky Mountain Area regional support code, but picking up several fires in southern Colorado. 03SD came back to the Black hills for a short duration mid-August before going the northeastern Washington and marrying up with the Blue Team on the Carpenter Road fire.

Total Flight hours:	= 93.9
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## SEAT Program

Once again, our zone SEAT program has shown exemplary Interagency partnerships. We hosted two SEATs, one at the Hot Springs airport in SD and one in Chadron, NE. Bureau of Indian Affairs also hosted one in Mobridge, SD. All agencies worked together in rotating SEMG's and crews through the bases allowing for training of new SEMG's and the opportunity for local managers to get out of zone assignments.

**T-475** - Was based in Chadron Nebraska for 78 days

Total number of loads	= 8
Total gallons delivered	= 4350
Number of fires flown; 1-SD, 1-WY and 1-NE	= 3

**T-455** – Was based in Chadron and Hot Springs throughout the season

### **CDR**

Total number of sorties	= 3
Total gallons delivered	= 1575
Number of fires flown	= 3

### **HSR**

Total number of sorties	= 10
Total gallons of water delivered	= 550
Total gallons of retardant delivered	= 5775
Number of fires flown	= 4

**T-881** - Was base out of Mobridge, SD

Total Flight hours	= 8.01
Total gallons delivered	= 3850
Number of fires flown	= 2

**T-880** - Long term severity

Total Flight hours	= 2
Total Sorties flown	= 2
Total Gallons delivered	= 1600

# South Dakota National Guard Support

The SDNG assisted in the zones fifth annual field training, working with Black Hills Life Flight and interagency partners to train over 200 field going personnel in the proper procedures for medivac requests through Great Plains Dispatch. A second day was added this year in order to give participants more quality hands on training with the flight crews and patient packaging.

The South Dakota National Guard also flew on two fires this season;

Cold Brook:

2 days

16.7 flight hours

35 drops

13251 gals of water

Sheep Draw:

3 days

26.6 flight hours

183 drops

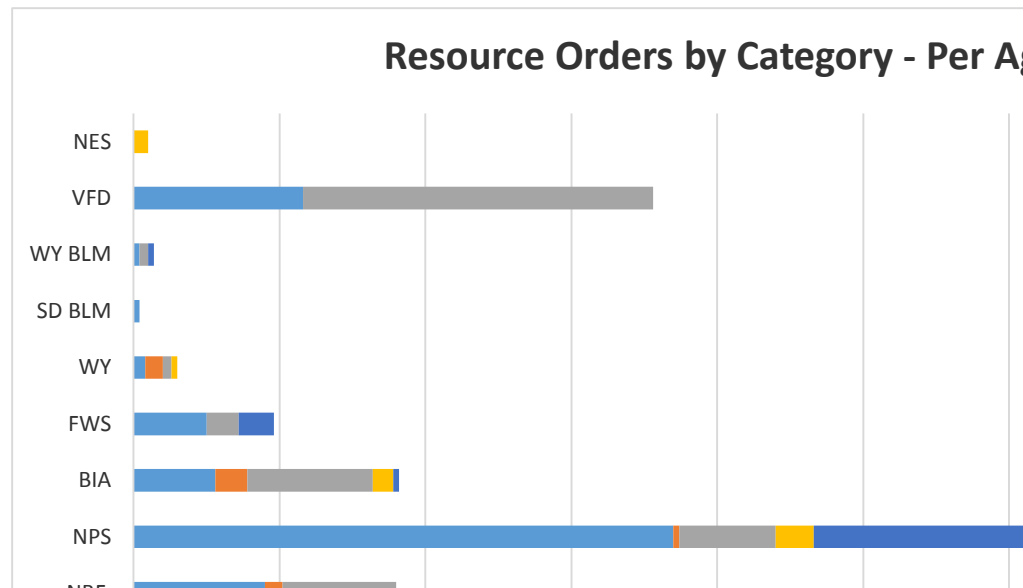
79674 gals of water



We would like to thank SMSgt Kevin Kreulen, for his support and cooperation to the Great Plains Interagency zone. Congratulations on your retirement and Good Luck!

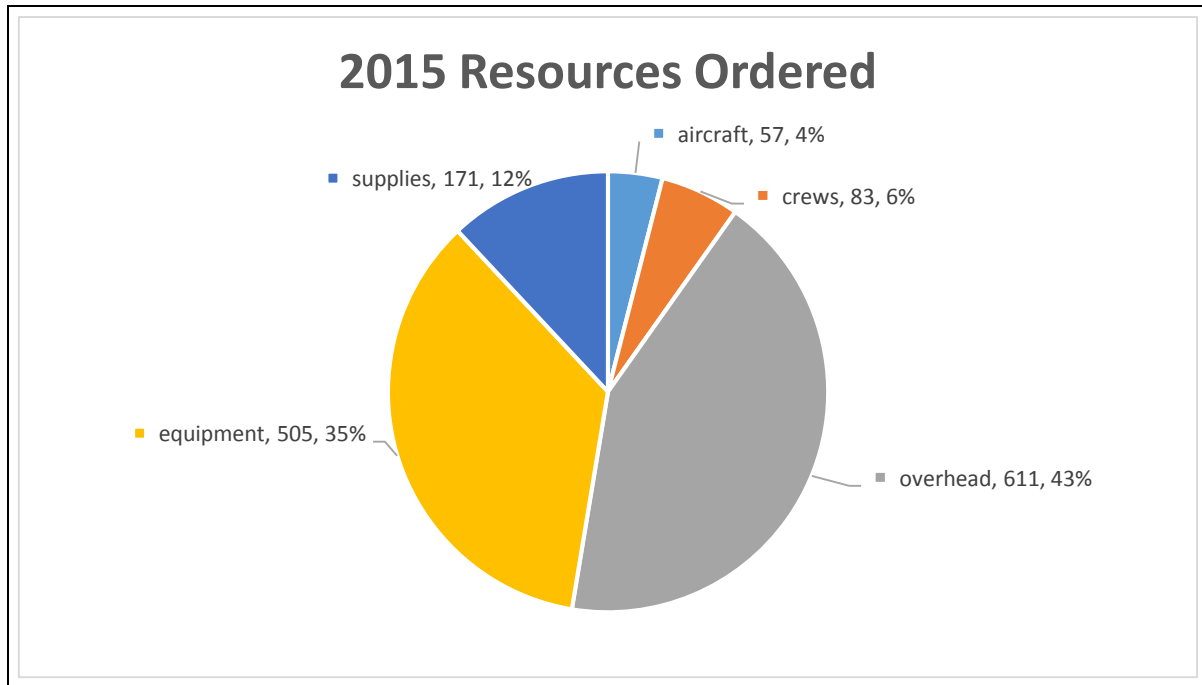
## RESOURCE ORDERS BY CATEGORY – FILLED PER AGENCY RESOURCES ORDERED THROUGH GPC

	Overhead	Equipment	Crews	Aircraft	Supplies
VFD	58	120	0	0	0
BKF	180	156	22	10	28
SDS	82	97	36	20	19
NBF	45	39	6	0	0
NPS	185	33	2	13	108
BIA	28	43	11	7	2
FWS	25	11	0	0	12
WY	4	3	6	2	0
NES	0	0	0	5	0
SD BLM	2	0	0	0	0
WY BLM	2	3	0	0	2
	611	505	83	57	171



RESOURCE TYPE	FILLED	CANCELED	UTF	DELETED
AIRCRAFT	57	2	0	0
CREWS	83	5	0	2
OVERHEAD	611	27	9	7
EQUIPMENT	505	29	0	5
SUPPLIES	171	3	2	11
TOTAL	1427	66	11	25

## BEAKDOWN OF RESOURCE ORDERES FILLED BY CATEGORY



Resources ordered in 2015 nearly doubled from the previous year, with 1427 requests in 2015 and 793 in 2014.

